

QUERIES & ANSWERS.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD AND MUCH-ABUSED "WIRE-GRASS."

THE ANTI-TRADING STAMP ACT.

The Alleged Mining of Habana Harbor—The Maine and General Lee—Value of Old War Papers—Etc.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:
Can you or some of your many correspondents advise me, through your columns, how to get rid of the detestable "wire grass"? Mrs. E. H. M.
Stage Junction, Fluvanna county.

Wire grass is far from "detestable," if properly managed. It will soil quickly and furnish good pasture, stop gullies, and restore stony, worn-out lands. It can be controlled so as not to trouble cultivated crops, and never needs re-seeding. One of the best farmers in the State, who would not be rid of it if he could—a most successful cropper—gives the following manner of managing this, to him useful and most abused grass: He grazes the field as a pasture for two or three years—more would be better. Then a peculiarity of the grass shows itself—it comes to the top of the soil, covering it with long vines, with little shallow roots, as the joints have only a few roots deep in the ground. This condition is produced by tramping and hard grazing. In the fall and winter he plows with a shallow, sharp plow, going about two inches deep, and rakes up with a harrow all the grass, throws it in his farm-pens, where it is consumed by cattle, which eat it greedily. Then in the spring he follows deeply the field and puts it in corn or other cultivated crops, and says it does not bother him as much as crop grass. He cuts off the corn, sows in wheat or oats and clover. He cuts the clover, and by that time the wire grass is getting thick, and he proceeds to pasture as before. Where, as in Eastern Virginia (his home), a man has much land, and he can make long rotations, wire grass is an advantage. If he has but little land—not pasture, and must make short rotations—it is a pest, as it does not pay to grub up anything these days.

Wilminington, Va.

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Chatham, Va. SUBSCRIBER.

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